

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Subject matter previously found in the dependent claims has been incorporated into the independent claims. No new matter is entered by way of this amendment.

Claims 11-13, 17-20, 22 and 24 were rejected as obvious over REBUCCI 4,150,701 in view of CHRISTENSEN 2,433,738; CLAIMS 18-19 In further view of CANTENOT 4,099,633.

Claims 18-19 were rejected as obvious in further view of CANTENOT 4,099,633.

Independent claim 11 now recites wherein the arms (3) are designed with a wedge-shaped cross section, where the wedge-shape tapers contrary to the direction of feed.

Additionally, claim 11 recites that the at least two arms (3) present essentially concave surfaces facing the direction of feed.

The driving device may provide either rotating or reciprocating movement. For reciprocating movement, there is a single direction of feed (see page 6, lines 2022) disclosing "the direction of feed at a reciprocating movement coincides with the one direction of movement (clockwise in the drawings)." As disclosed on specification page 7, lines 4-10, this arrangement is advantageous at a reciprocating movement, to in one direction

slide under the material without bringing it along and in the other direction push a certain amount of material in front.

The Official Action asserts that REBUCCI teaches "arms designed with a wedge-shaped cross section, where the wedge-shape tapers (see Figure 3) contrary to the direction of the feed." However, in Figure 3 of REBUCCI, the blades 82, 84 do not taper in the direction contrary to the direction of the feed, where the direction of the feed is the direction in which the device brings the material towards the discharge opening (specification page 6, lines 16-22). This is now explicitly recited in claim 11.

There is no teaching in any of the references as to this structural arrangement or the advantageous achieved by this arrangement.

Accordingly, claim 11 and its dependent claims are non-obvious.

Having amended the recitations of the invention so as to recite the invention both novel and non-obvious, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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